

INTEGRATED SECURITY GATEWAY APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to a networking system for wide-area networking. In particular, the invention relates to a networking system with an integrated security gateway apparatus interposed between an internal network and an external network, for integrating virtual private networking, firewall and intrusion detection functions.

15 Description of the Related Art

Businesses today are faced with supporting a broader variety of communications among a wider range of corporate branches even as they seek to reduce the cost of their communications infrastructure. Employees are looking to 20 access the resources of their corporate intra-nets as they take to the road or telecommute. And also, business partners are joining together in extra-nets to share business information. In this environment, private computer networks come in all forms and are put to many purposes.

25 Fig. 1 shows an example of a conventional private computer network using dedicated leased lines or packet-